

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OMB-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

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R 211148Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8050

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14627

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINR, VS

SUBJ: DEBRIEFING OF DAN RODILL, NEWSDAY STRINGER FROM SAIGON

REF: A. VIENTIANE 4657; B. VIENTIANE 4695

1. THE EMBASSY HAS HAD SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH EVICTED SAIGON STRINGER DAN RODILL. THERE IS LITTLE NEW TO ADD TO WHAT RODILL TOLD EMBASSY VIENTIANE (REFTELS). HE SAID THAT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE HE TRIED TO LOCATE THE THREE PRIVATE AMERICANS HE THOUGHT WERE IMPRISONED IN SAIGON, INCLUDING 32 YEAR OLD HIPPY LARRY FEIGON, BUT HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. ON MIKE MIELKE, RODILL SAID HE IS REQUIRED TO INFORM THE NEIGHBORHOOD "BLOCK LEADER" IN GIA DINH OF ALL HIS MOVEMENTS, ALL THE MILITARY WEAR PRG RATHER THAN NVA INSIGNIA, ALTHOUGH HE SUSPECTS A GOOD NUMBER OF THEM ARE INDEED NVA.

2. RODILL IS VIRTUALLY OBSESSED WITH RETRIEVING HIS MATERIALS TAKEN FROM HIM UPON HIS DEPARTURE. DESPITE QUERIES TO SAIGON, HE HAS RECEIVED NO INFORMATION ON THEM. RODILL PLANS TO TRAVEL TO VIENTIANE EARLY THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE DRV EMBASSY AND AP-
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PLY FOR A VISA TO RETURN TO SAIGON. HE SAID THE RGSVN

FOREIGN MINISTRY'S MR. NHAN TOLD HIM THAT "OF COURSE YOU CAN CABLE TO GET BACK IN ANYTIME YOU WANT." HE DOES NOT EXPECT HIS TALK WITH THE DRV EMBASSY TO BE PRODUCTIVE BUT FEELS HE SHOULD MAKE THE EFFORT, ANYWAY. IF HE DOES NOT GET SATISFACTION FROM THE VIETNAMESE, RODILL SAYS HE IS DETERMINED TO MAKE WAVES. HE WOULD LIKE ANY HELP THE USG CAN GIVE HIM BUT IS REALISTIC ENOUGH TO ADMIT THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN DO.

3. ACCORDING TO ROK CHARGE HAN JAE KIM, THE NEWS RODILL PASSED ON TO HIM WAS GENERAL IN NATURE. RODILL TOLD HIM HE SAW THE KOREAN CHARGE IN SAIGON, WHO IS LIVING WITH A FAMILY IN THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL ANNEX. THE CHARGE WAS CALLED TO THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE FOR A NINE AND ONE-HALF HOUR INTERROGATION, THEN RELEASED. THE CHARGE TOLD HIM THE MAJORITY OF THE KOREAN DIPLOMATS HAVE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AROUND THE CITY BUT THAT TWO OF THE EIGHT DIPLOMATS AND TWO KOREAN CIVILIANS ARE IN PRISON. SOME 120 KOREAN NATIONALS ARE LIVING IN THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. KIM SAYS HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW THEY ARE SURVIVING, SINCE THE VC CONFISCATED THEIR COMMUNIAL FUND OF TWO MILLION PIASTERS.
WHITEHOUSE

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